

**Proposed Substitute
Bill No. 1103**

LCO No. 5806

AN ACT CONCERNING SCHOOL DISTRICTS OF INNOVATION.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2015*) (a) For the school year
2 commencing July 1, 2015, and each school year thereafter, the
3 Commissioner of Education shall establish and administer a school
4 districts of innovation program. Under such program, the State Board
5 of Education may waive any provision of title 10 of the general
6 statutes, or regulations adopted by the State Board of Education
7 pursuant to said title 10, except that the State Board of Education shall
8 not waive any provision of sections 10-14n, 10-15, 10-16, 10-16b, 10-
9 153a to 10-153t, inclusive, and 10-221a of the general statutes or any
10 requirement of federal law, for any local or regional board of education
11 that develops creative approaches to addressing issues and challenges
12 related to the provision of education in the public schools, including,
13 but not limited to, improving school climate and reducing school
14 bullying.

15 (b) (1) A local or regional board of education may submit an
16 application for participating in the program at such time and in such
17 manner as the commissioner prescribes. Such application shall include,
18 but not be limited to, (A) a plan that provides a description of the
19 proposed approach to be taken by such local or regional board of

20 education to address a specific issue or challenge, (B) the proposed
21 outcome of such approach, (C) methods for assessing the impact of
22 participating in the program, (D) the inclusion of any community
23 partners that will be involved in the implementation of such approach,
24 and (E) the specific statutory or regulatory provisions that such board
25 is seeking permission to be waived.

26 (2) The commissioner shall review each application for participation
27 in the program and may recommend approval of the plan proposed by
28 a local or regional board of education to the State Board of Education.
29 The State Board of Education may approve the plan and waive the
30 appropriate statutory or regulatory requirements. Such waiver shall be
31 valid for three years and may be renewed by the State Board of
32 Education upon a demonstration of success by the local or regional
33 board of education.

34 (c) Any local or regional board of education participating in such
35 program shall partner with a public institution of higher education to
36 implement the plan and analyze such implementation. Such public
37 institution of higher education shall provide instruction in best
38 practices and research-based methodology to assist such local or
39 regional board of education in the implementation of such plan.

40 (d) Any local or regional board of education participating in the
41 program shall (1) submit to the Department of Education (A) annual
42 progress reports relating to the implementation of such plan; and (B) a
43 final report relating to the results of such plan at the conclusion of
44 participation in the program or prior to an application for renewal of
45 the waiver, (2) share such results with other local or regional boards of
46 education, and (3) if such plan is successful, provide instruction and
47 training to other local and regional boards of education on such plan.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
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Section 1	July 1, 2015	New section
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